Land Use and Land Cover Map Classes

Nine map classes represent classes within the USGS land use and land cover (LUC) classification system developed by Anderson et al. (1976). This classification was designed to meet the needs of federal and state agencies for a uniform categorization of data from satellite and aircraft remote sensors. It uses a hierarchical system of four levels to fit the classifying needs from satellite type sensor data (Level I) to low-altitude photo imagery data (Level IV; <1:20,000-scale).

The USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program uses Level II of this LUC classification system to classify general land cover conditions not classified by the NVCS natural/semi-natural or planted/cultivated types. These include populated areas, roads, quarries, and open water bodies that are <10% vegetated. Definitions on Level II classes are defined in the USGS LUC publication.

Table F-5 lists the project's map classes that are used to map general land use and land cover. The table provides a crosswalk to the USGS LUC Level II classification.

Table F-5. Map classes and their link to USGS LUC used for general land use and land cover mapping.

Map Class (Code)	Description	Link to USGS LUC Level II Class (Code)
Residential (UR)	Lands used primarily for residential purposed (populated areas or rural settings)	Residential (11)
Commercial and Services (UC)	Lands used primarily for commercial purposes (populated areas or rural settings)	Commercial and Services (12)
Transportation and Roads (UT)	Lands used primarily for transportation (roads and right-of-ways, railroads, roadside parking)	Transportation, Communications, Utilities (14)
Mixed Urban or Built-up Land (UM)	Lands used for both residential and commercial purposes (e.g., mix of residential and tourism)	Mixed Urban or Built-up Land (16)
Other Urban or Built-up Land (UBL)	Lands primarily developed for other purposes such as golf courses, cemeteries, and parks.	Other Urban or Built-up Land (17)
Other Agricultural Land (ARB)	Lands primarily used by farmsteads (includes out buildings and farm ponds)	Other Agricultural Land (21)
Stream (non-vegetated) (WST)	Streams that are <10% vegetated (vegetated portions are mapped with vegetation class)	Streams and Canals (51)
Lake (non-vegetated) (WLK)	Lakes that are <10% vegetated (vegetated portions are mapped with vegetation class)	Lakes (52)
Ocean - Bay - Estuary (non-vegetated) (WO)	Ocean, bays, and estuaries < 10% vegetated (vegetated portions are mapped with vegetation class)	Bays and Estuaries (54)
Strip Mines, Quarries, and Gravel Pits (BLQ)	Lands used for extractive mining purposes (active and non-active quarries)	Strip Mines, Quarries, and Gravel Pits (75)

For polygon frequency and area information of each land cover and land use map class, refer to the full area report provided in the main report.